

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A system that facilitates representing a class of resources, comprising:  
an abstract or physical resource associated with a class of resources; and  
a class identifier that uniquely represents the class of resources to which  
the abstract or physical resource is associated.
2. The system of claim 1, the class identifier is a uniform resource identifier (URI).
3. The system of claim 1, the class identifier uses a placeholder to represent the class of resources.
4. The system of claim 3, the placeholder is a single character.
5. The system of claim 1, the class identifier is included in an instrumentation catalog comprising a plurality of identifiers, each associated with one of an abstract resource, a physical resource, a collection of resources, and a class of resources.
6. The system of claim 1, the class identifier is converted to a specific identifier by replacing the placeholder with a name of a specific instance.
7. The system of claim 1, the class identifier is used to retrieve probe information without retrieving a probe of a particular instance.
8. The system of claim 1, the class identifier includes at least two placeholders to facilitate accessing a data subcomponent within a data component.

9. The system of claim 1, the class identifier is included as an entry in an instrumentation catalog, which entry associates information about the class identifier, including at least one of purpose, usage, values to use for placeholders, and a returned value.

10. The system of claim 1, the class identifier passes values to a method associated with instances.

11. The system of claim 1, the class identifier is configured and executed to return a list of all running instances of an application.

12. A system that facilitates representing a class of resources, comprising:  
an abstract or physical resource associated with a resource class; and  
a URI that uniquely represents the resource class by using at least one placeholder to represent the resource class.

13. The system of claim 12, the class identifier is converted to a specific identifier by replacing the at least one placeholder with a name of a specific instance.

14. The system of claim 12, the class identifier includes at least two placeholders to facilitate accessing a data subcomponent within a data component.

15. A computer system operating in accordance with claim 12.

16. A computer-readable medium having computer executable instructions that embodies the system of claim 12.

17. A method of representing a class of resources, comprising: /  
receiving an abstract or physical resource associated with a resource class;  
and  
representing the resource class with a URI by using at least one  
placeholder to represent the resource class.
18. The method of claim 17, the URI uniquely represents the resource class.
19. The method of claim 17, the resource class is associated with one of  
system devices, processes, and threads.
20. The method of claim 17, further comprising converting the URI of the  
resource class to a URI for a specific resource instance by replacing the at least one  
placeholder with a specific instance name.
21. The method of claim 17, further comprising retrieving management  
information associated with the resource class.
22. The method of claim 17, further comprising employing at least two  
placeholders to access an instance within at least another instance.
23. The method of claim 17, further comprising employing at least two  
placeholders to pass values to a method associated with an instance.
24. A method of accessing data representative of a class of resources, /  
comprising:  
uniquely associating a URI with a resource class, the URI uses at least one  
placeholder to represent the resource class; and  
processing the URI to return the representative data.

25. The method of claim 24, the URI is processed on a local system and accesses an associated resource class of a remote system.

26. The method of claim 24, further comprising employing at least two placeholders to pass values to a method associated with an instance.

27. A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing a method for representing a class of resources, the method comprising: uniquely associating a URI with a resource class, the URI uses at least one placeholder to represent the resource class; and processing the URI to return the representative data.

28. The method of claim 27, further comprising:  
processing the URI on a local system; and  
accessing an associated resource class of a remote system.

29. The method of claim 27, further comprising employing at least two placeholders to pass values to a method associated access an instance.

30. A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions that facilitates a system that facilitates representing a class of resources, the system comprising:  
an abstract or physical resource associated with a class of resources; and  
a class identifier that uniquely represents the class of resources to which the abstract or physical resource is associated.

31. The computer-readable medium of claim 30, the class identifier uses a single character placeholder to represent the class of resources.

32. The computer-readable medium of claim 30, the class identifier is converted to a specific identifier by replacing the placeholder with a name of a specific instance.